

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Hendrickson for the indication in the Office Action of August 25, 2003 that the subject matter of Claims 49-50 and 55-56 is allowable. Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that the elected specie (silicate) is allowed.

Independent Claim 44 has been amended to state that the pulverulent rubber of the claimed adsorbent has a majority of macropores. An adsorbent comprising a pulverulent rubber having such a pore structure permits the adsorbent to irreversibly bind a large quantity of oil (page 10, lines 22-25). New dependent Claim 58 states that the adsorbent can absorb up to 300% of its own weight in oil.

New independent Claim 60 is drawn to an adsorbent containing the elected specie. Applicants submit that new independent Claim 60 is allowable over the art of record as indicated by the Office's acknowledgement that the elected specie is allowable.

The Office rejected Claims 44-48 and 51-54 upon expanding the search to include non-elected species (e.g., an oxide filler). The rejection is in view of a patent to Lightsey (U.S. 5,985,953).

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claim 44 on the grounds that Lightsey does not disclose pulverulent rubbers containing adsorbents having a pore structure wherein the majority of pores are macropores (e.g., greater than 30 nm). Because Lightsey does not disclose adsorbents and further does not disclose adsorbents having the pore structure of present independent Claim 44, Applicants submit that present independent Claim 44 and the claims dependent therefrom cannot be rendered obvious or anticipated by the disclosure of Lightsey.

Applicants submit the above-discussed adsorbent is not disclosed or rendered obvious
by the prior art of record and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections.

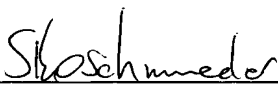
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SUK:smi



Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,238